

CLAIMS:

1. ~~An assessment system that includes:~~

~~a. means for presenting a subject or operator with a measurement item;~~

~~b. a recorder that records and stores observed events associated with said measurement item with a data track of event data sequenced by a time track of time data; and~~

~~c. indexing software that enters an index mark into a database with at least one field denoting a measurement item and associated with time data for associated observed event.~~

2. ~~An assessment system according to claim 1 wherein said integrated observation, recording, assessment, and indexing system, comprising:~~

a. a means for presenting a subject or operator with a set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items for use by said subject or operator to structure the observation and assessment of observed events or phenomena;

b. a means for simultaneously recording said observed events or phenomena with a data track of event data sequenced by a track of address data; and

c. a means of associating each of said pre-defined event descriptor measurement items used by said subject or operator in the process of said observation and assessment to said data track of event data, automatically generating an index item entry in a data base with at least one field denoting a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item includes a programmable computer having a central processing unit linked to recording address data for associated said observed events or phenomena,

whereby meaningful, systematic, and standardized indicators to recordings of observed and assessed events, based upon pre-defined event descriptor measure items used by said subject or operator, are generated and available for use in further processing.

2. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said means for presenting said subject or operator with said set of pre-defined event descriptor

measurement items includes a microprocessor, a storage system, and an output display.

3. An observation and assessment system according to claim 15 wherein said means for presenting a subject or operator with a measurement item includes a written document or a video display.

4. ~~An output display is a video or computer display.~~

4. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said means for presenting a subject or operator with a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item includes a video player and a video display.

5. ~~An items are presented to a subject with the actions of an assessor.~~

5. An observation and assessment system according to claim 17 wherein said recorder is a digital recorder.

6. ~~An assessor interacts with said subject in accordance with the process of observation and assessment.~~

6. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said recorder is an analog recorder that produces an analog recording which is then digitized.

7. ~~An assessment method including the following steps:~~

a. ~~presenting a pre-defined event descriptor measurement item to a subject or operator;~~

b. ~~making a record of at least one event associated with said measurement item, said record having a event data track of event data sequenced by a time track of time data; and~~

~~c. indexing said record by entering time data from said data track and a measurement item identifier therefor into associated fields on computer database.~~

5 | ~~8. An assessment method~~items include one or more of text components, graphical objects, or video objects.

10 | ~~7. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7~~14 wherein said pre-defined event descriptor measurement items are presented to said subject or operator by a computer and a computer display.

| ~~9. An assessment method~~include one or more rating scales.

15 | ~~8. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7 wherein the subject is presented with measurement items by an assessor at an interview.~~

| ~~10. An assessment method~~20 wherein said rating scales employ quantitative ratings.

20 | ~~9. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7~~14 wherein the subject is presented with said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items by displaying images on a video display.

25 | ~~11. An assessment method~~contains or is based upon an established survey, questionnaire, examination plan, report form, or other assessment instrument.

| ~~10. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7~~14 wherein said record is a digital recording of observed events.

30 | ~~12. An assessment method~~set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items is created and stored by a user prior to use in said observation and assessment.

11. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7 further comprising: augmenting said computer database by adding information to said database that relates to said event field without changing the relationship of said time data to said event data.

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13. ~~An assessment method~~23 wherein said set of pre-defined event descriptor measurement items is a list of interview questions.

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12. An observation and assessment system according to claim 7
wherein ~~the indexing is performed automatically as an~~said list of
interview questions is a list of deposition questions.

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13. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said means for recording observed events is digital.

14. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein said address data is time code based.

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15. An observation and assessment system according to claim 14 wherein segments of recorded material are automatically defined using said recording address data as said subject or operator proceeds from one pre-defined event descriptor measurement item to another.